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NEWS RELEASE

Oct. 8, 2008

Contact: Brian Kerns, engineer, UM Office of the Vice President for Research and Development, 406-532-3228; Mike Cutler, superintendent, Philipsburg Public Schools, 406-859-3232.

BIOENERGY DEMONSTRATION COMING TO PHILIPSBURG SCHOOL

MISSOULA -

The University of Montana's high-tech biomass energy generator will travel to Philipsburg on Thursday, Oct. 23, for a day of demonstrations at the public school campus. The purpose is to highlight biomass as a viable alternative energy source.

Since January 2005, the Philipsburg School has used a biomass boiler to heat its campus. The UM generator will showcase another biomass technology that converts wood chips into electricity and heat.

"In this biomass-rich region of Montana, it may make sense to examine such technologies that can better utilize our abundant local renewable resources by finding uses for forest residues," said Brian Kerns, an engineer with UM's Office of the Vice President for Research and Development.

The generator will operate continuously from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Free public tours of the generator and Philipsburg's wood-fired boiler will be conducted at the top of every hour. Everyone is welcome.

The mobile bioenergy generator was funded by the U.S. Department of Agriculture to help educate the public about biomass use. For more information, call 406-532-3228 or 406-

859-3232.

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